This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Steam cycle with a steam generator, adapted to have thermal energy transferred to ~~an~~ a water-based operating medium and a power engine adapted to convert the thermal energy comprised in the operating medium to mechanical energy, characterized in that the operating medium additionally contains at least one heterocyclic compound~~, especially a heterocyclic aromatic compound~~.

2. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the operating medium is a mixture containing water and heterocyclic aromatic compounds, water being contained in an amount between 5 and 95 percent by weight and the heterocyclic compound in an amount between 5 and 95 percent by weight.

3. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 2, characterized in that the operating medium additionally contains one or more polymers which are mixable with water, surfactant and/or other organic lubricants.

4. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 3, characterized in that the operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyrrole, ~~and/or~~ pyridazine ~~as a heterocyclic compound~~, and combinations thereof.

5. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 3, characterized in that the polymer is seleceted from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, ~~or a~~ polyphenyl, ~~especially~~ terphenyl, and combinations thereof.

6. (currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Steam cycle according to claim 1, wherein the operating medium includes a heterocyclic aromatic compound, ~~especially~~ including 2-methyl pyridine~~, in an operating medium for a steam cycle according to one of the above claims~~.

7. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 2, characterized in that the operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyrrole, ~~and/or~~ pyridazine ~~as a heterocyclic compound~~, and combinations thereof.

8. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyrrole, ~~and/or~~ pyridazine ~~as a heterocyclic compound~~, and combinations thereof.

9. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the operating medium additionally contains one or more polymers which are mixable with water, surfactant and/or other organic lubricants.

10. (new) Steam cycle according to claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic compound is a heterocyclic aromatic compound.

11. (new) A steam cycle with a steam generator, adapted to have thermal energy transferred to a water-based operating medium and a power engine adapted to convert the thermal energy comprised in the operating medium to mechanical energy, the water based operating medium comprising:

a) water;

b) at least one heterocyclic compound; and

b) a lubricant selected from the group consisting of a water-mixable polymer, a water-mixable surfactant, a water-mixable organic lubricant, a water-mixable inorganic lubricant, and combinations thereof.